



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

01/04/2011 Draft Minutes

D R A F T
VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
JANUARY 4, 2011 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Bob & Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin.

Guests: Laura Rothman and Margaret Moore from Arlington-Belmont Crew.

Facilitator: Steve Ricci **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 15 (second floor), March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6. Town Hall Annex, first floor except Feb. 15.

- **Minutes** for December were accepted with corrections; for June and October as presented.
- **Sandbar:** Steve has written to the Dean of Engineering at Tufts, asking whether “scoping out” removal of the sandbar could become a student project. Once he gets an answer, he’ll approach the Town Engineer and MassHighway.
- **Phragmites:** The pond is frozen over. About half of the reeds in Kelwyn Manor Park have already been cut by members of the K.M. Association. The reeds on the island remain to be cut, and the seedheads destroyed, when the ice is thick enough to walk over the pond safely. Brad has contacted the Land Trust about it; high school students could be recruited for it.
- **Financial information** from Teresa DeBenedictis: The waterbodies fund stands at \$12,536, with \$5821 designated for phragmites, leaving \$6715 for general purposes. In 2009-10, total spent on phragmites was \$7400; total spent on Spy Pond, including weed treatment and botanist fees, was \$46,229. Jane has asked for details on spending on other waterbodies.
- **No-wake bylaw:** A warrant article for a bylaw prohibiting a wake within 50 ft. of the shore, to prevent erosion, has been submitted, with a second article for erecting signs if the first one passes. Laura noted that the coaches’ boats use 9.8 hp motors which go about 5 mph, and that they have to be careful because it is dangerous for one boat to cross the wake of another. But Steve saw one boat going with the bow up and making a big wake.

There are now two programs. The high school crew is only active in spring and fall for about 10 weeks each. There is also a community rowing program in the summer, run through the Arlington Recreation Department by a former coach of the crew. A no-wake bylaw is probably unenforceable, and if it could be enforced, it could destroy the rowing programs. Near the island there is probably no water that isn’t within 50 ft. of one of the shores. Wind-driven waves probably cause more erosion than boats.

Conclusions: The crew will list the actions they could take that would minimize erosion caused by boats. Bob Noyes will write a statement for the committee – we support recreational use of the pond that causes no harm; if people are to support maintenance of the pond, they must be allowed to use it. We will consider further before deciding whether to oppose the bylaw or offer a substitute motion.

- **Egg-adding:** Jacob and Bill will do it again at Spy Pond. They are willing to train other volunteers, but these would have to be certified by “Geesepeace.” We will need to do a census of goslings in May to see where geese nest and where addlers should go next year. Geese have been reported at North Union (but are unlikely to nest there) and at the Res.
- The **next meeting** was moved from the original date of Feb. 1 to Feb. 15 in the second-floor conference room. The agenda will be continued discussion of today’s topics. – End –